

Applic. No.: 10/620,570

Amdt. Dated September 26, 2005

Reply to Office action of July 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-14, 16-22, and 24-35 remain in the application. Claims 1, 6-7, 9-12, 24-26, and 29 have been amended. Claims 4 and 15 have been previously cancelled. Claims 5, 8, and 23 have been now cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-14, 16-22, 28, and 30-31 have been rejected as being anticipated by Gung (US 2002/0175074 A1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 20 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-14, 16-22, 28, and 30 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kiyota (US 5,770,025) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In item 23 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 31-35 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kiyota in view of Ashitiani et al. (US 6,500,321 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

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In item 28 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 32-35 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Gung in view of Ashitiani et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 12 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the features of claims 5 and 8 have been added to claim 1. The feature of claim 23 has been added to claim 12. Since claims 8 and 23 contain allowable subject matter as indicated in item 31 on page 7 of the Office action, claims 1 and 12 are now believed to be allowable. Since claims 2-3, 6-7, 11, 13-14, 16-22, 28, and 30-35 are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 12, they are believed to be patentable as well. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 31 on page 7 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 8-10, 23-27, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The features of claims 5 and 8 have been added to claim 1.  
The feature of claim 23 has been added to claim 12. Claims

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25-26 and 29 have been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claims 9-10 are dependent on allowable claim 1, claim 24 is dependent on allowable claim 12, and claim 27 is dependent on allowable claim 25, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

In view of the foregoing, an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-14, 16-22, and 24-35 is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

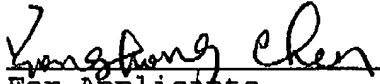
The fee in the amount of \$400.00 for two additional independent claims in excess of three is enclosed herewith.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-  
1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
For Applicants

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YC

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